

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO. 4:06CR143
)	
Plaintiff,)	JUDGE PETER C. ECONOMUS
)	Magistrate Judge George J. Limbert
v.)	
)	
JUISONE HIGHTOWER,)	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
)	OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Defendant.)	

Pursuant to General Order 99-49, this case was referred to United States Magistrate Judge George J. Limbert for the purposes of receiving, on consent of the parties, Defendant's offer of a plea of guilty, conducting the colloquy prescribed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11, causing a verbatim record of the proceedings to be prepared, referring the matter for presentence investigation, and submitting a Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation stating whether the plea should be accepted and a finding of guilty entered. The following, along with the transcript or other record of the proceedings submitted herewith, constitutes the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation concerning the plea of guilty proffered by Defendant.

1. On October 31, 2006, Defendant Juisone Hightower, accompanied by Attorney Joseph Gardner, proffered a plea of guilty.

2. Prior to such proffer, Defendant Hightower was examined as to his competency, advised of the charges and consequences of conviction, informed that the Court is not bound to apply the Federal Sentencing Guidelines but must consult the guidelines and take them into consideration when it imposes the sentence, notified of his rights, advised that he was waiving all of his rights except the right to counsel, and, if such were the case, his right to appeal, and

otherwise provided with the information prescribed in Fed. Crim. R. 11.

3. The parties and counsel informed the Court that there was a written, signed plea agreement between the parties. The undersigned was advised that no commitments or promises have been made by any party, and no other agreements, written or unwritten, have been made between the parties.

4. The undersigned questioned Defendant Hightower under oath about the knowing, intelligent and voluntary nature of the plea of guilty, and the undersigned believes that Defendant Hightower's plea was offered knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

5. The parties provided the undersigned with sufficient information about the charged offenses and Defendant Hightower's conduct to establish a factual basis for the plea.

In light of the foregoing, and the record submitted herewith, the undersigned concludes that Defendant Hightower's plea was knowing, intelligent and voluntary and all requirements imposed by the United States Constitution and Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 have been satisfied. Accordingly, the undersigned recommends that the plea of guilty be accepted and a finding of guilty be entered by the Court.

Date: October 31, 2006

s/ George J. Limbert
George J. Limbert
United States Magistrate Judge

ANY OBJECTIONS to this Report and Recommendation must be filed with the Clerk of Court within ten (10) days of service of this notice. Failure to file objections within the specified time WAIVES the right to appeal the Magistrate Judge's recommendation. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981).